

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
JANUARY 13, 1998**

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Santini (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Councilmembers Bush, Cox, and Kiar. Also present were Town Administrator Flatley, Town Attorney Webber and Town Clerk Reinfeld recording the meeting.

Staff present were Chief of Police Jack Mackie, Director of Development Services Michele Mellgren, Fire Chief Michael Donati, Deputy Fire Chief Len DePaola, Utilities Director Dan Colabella, Community Services Director Sharon Pierce Kent, Programs Manager Will Allen, and Assistant Town Administrator Robert Rawls and Town Engineer.

Mayor Venis opened the meeting and requested questions from the audience.

Peter Moran indicated that he was concerned with the sale of South Broward Utilities to the City Sunrise and questioned if there would be a rate hike. He stated that when he attended a CPR course in Pembroke Pines, he was made aware of dissatisfaction with EMS response times in Davie and asked the Council to address this.

Mayor Venis indicated that the Town was in negotiations with Sunrise regarding the sale and added that the Town would be appearing before the Broward Delegation on January 15th regarding the surcharge bill. Mr. Webber discussed the acquisition of South Broward Utilities by Sunrise and the Town's actions. He stated that the bill regarding the surcharge by the City of Sunrise would be discussed at the legislative delegation meeting being held on January 15th.

Fire Chief Michael Donati stated that the Town was presently serviced by AMR/Lifefleet because at that time, the Fire Department did not have the resources to provide an emergency medical service system. He advised that since October 1996, the Fire Department had two ALS engines on line and 20 certified paramedics assigned to these units. Chief Donati added that the level of service being provided by Lifefleet and the Town was very good. While he acknowledged some problems, he stated that the problems had been addressed and resolved and expressed his satisfaction with Lifefleet's service. Chief Donati indicated that he hoped that as resources became available, the Fire Department would be phased into the emergency medical service system. He explained that there might be some friction between Lifefleet and the firefighters because Lifefleet was non-union and firefighters were union; however, the working relationship between Lifefleet and the Fire Department was very good. He stated that during times of need of service, any differences were put aside and good service was provided to the public.

Mayor Venis cited the fact that when the Town first became involved with Lifefleet, there were only three cross-trained firefighter/paramedics and currently, the Town had 20 cross-trained personnel.

Teresa Rourke spoke about "tankers" cutting through her neighborhood at all different times and she was now seeing big Sunrise vehicles coming through the neighborhood. She stated that these vehicles were causing curb damage, potholes, etc. and questioned what the Town was going to do to limit access. She also commented that residents in her community were paying the highest rates in the county and asked if that was being taken into account.

Mayor Venis stated that he believed that piping out the sewage was one of the negotiating points with the City of Sunrise and he indicated that had received and handled many complaints. He advised that in the future, limiting access was going to be considered.

Assistant Town Administrator Robert Rawls stated that the Town was sensitive to the truck traffic, that the problem seemed to have subsided but apparently it was reoccurring again and staff would look into it. He stated that there were legal issues involved in limiting access.

Ms. Rourke inquired about a park location and what was being planned there. Mr. Rawls stated that the land was designated as a public utility site. Ms. Rourke then inquired whether service was going to be provided to Imagination Farms. Mr. Rawls stated that Imagination Farms has the service right in their agreement but that the plant has a limited capacity. A discussion ensued regarding Imagination Farms.

Michael Murphy inquired if the City of Sunrise would have sovereign immunity in reference to lawsuits once it took over South Broward Utilities. Mr. Webber stated that he believed there was some limited coverage but the

issue had not been researched and a definitive answer could not be given at this time.

Mr. Murphy asked if blasting would take place at Imagination Farms. Mayor Venis stated that machinery was being used and there were no plans to blast.

Mr. Murphy's asked if the Town had any plans to aggressively pursue landowners to annex into the Town. Mr. Flatley stated that the Town was not being aggressive in this regard and if people wished to come into the Town, it would be their request to come in. Councilmember Cox stated that the legislative delegation decided that cities could not pursue bits and pieces of the unincorporated areas for annexation. She stated that Sunshine Ranches ultimately wished to be their own city, but studies to determine the economic feasibility were not completed. She stated that the Town, in negotiations, had let Sunshine Ranches know that the Town wanted to annex them into the Town. Mr. Flatley stated that Ivanhoe residents were active in the negotiations. Mr. Murphy asked if Ivanhoe residents were included in a vote with Sunshine Ranches and Southwest Ranches. Councilmember Cox stated that Ivanhoe was part of the study and if the Ivanhoe area wanted to be part of the new city, there would be a vote but the Ranches would have to agree.

Mr. Murphy stated that the intersection of Dykes Road and Griffin Road was a nightmare and that promises had been made for a protective median and other measures; however, these promises had not been fulfilled as yet. He inquired if such measures were going to be implemented. Mayor Venis replied in the affirmative. Mr. Rawls stated that a contract had been awarded for the concrete work and added that the work should be completed within 90 days. He explained that a separate, protected left turn lane had been overlooked in the original plans and he felt this was a critical safety issue for the area. Mr. Rawls stated that he had received a commitment from Broward County Commissioner Lori Parrish on this issue and he would be meeting with the County's staff to secure a commitment from the County.

Mr. Murphy inquired about widening and expanding Dykes Road and the status of the traffic light at the school. Mr. Rawls stated that the Town had no plans from the County to widen or expand and discussed a pedestrian light. Mr. Murphy stated that because of new development in the area, he believed that this should be a priority. He inquired if Volunteer Road was still off the County trafficways for expansion. Mr. Rawls replied affirmatively.

Mr. Murphy asked if a second bridge was being planned for Imagination Farms traffic. Mr. Rawls stated that because the development was a relatively low-density project, it should not have any significant impact on roadways. Mr. Rawls stated that in the future, access to the interchange would be necessary at Griffin Road and that the different agencies did not support a bridge at 148th Avenue at the present time.

Mayor Venis advised that many of the issues being discussed would be discussed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, which the Town was a member of. He stated that the Town would be kept well abreast of any road expansion issues affecting the residents of the Town.

An unidentified woman inquired about the Dykes Road expansion. Mr. Rawls stated that the expansion would be necessary in the future to keep pace with traffic, but that the character of the community should also try to be preserved.

An unidentified woman stated that if the City of Sunrise charged Davie residents their current rates and the surcharge, it would still be significantly lower than what residents were paying currently. Mayor Venis stated that this issue was part of the Town's on-going negotiations and this matter would be discussed further later on in the meeting.

The woman asked who the state representative was for Ivanhoe and indicated it would be hard for Ivanhoe to be properly represented if they were in the same district as Sunrise.

Mayor Venis introduced Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and Senator Howard Forman.

Representative Wasserman-Schultz stated that she was the only representative at the legislative delegation that represented all three cities. The woman asked how Representative Wasserman-Schultz could represent the Town and Sunrise if there was an issue that "directly effected our pocket books to a tune of a severe number".

Representative Wasserman-Schultz explained that she was in a unique position to represent all of the cities because she was not representing just one or the other city. She indicated that she and Senator Forman were considered mutual observers and that their unique position allowed them to negotiate a successful resolution to the problem.

A woman asked if there had been a resolution with Representative Wasserman-Schultz replying that there had not as yet, but one was being worked on. Representative Wasserman-Schultz stated that she and Senator Forman were working with Sunrise, Pembroke Pines and the Town to try to negotiate a fair and equitable resolution.

Senator Forman stated that he was hopeful a resolution could be reached before the legislative delegation meeting

in Pompano Beach. He stated that one issue was the fairness of the rate structure and another issue was the concept of an advisory board with all three cities being represented. Discussion followed.

An unidentified man expressed a desire to have Ivanhoe connected to the rest of the trail system and questioned if there were any plans to accomplish this. Councilmember Cox discussed some of the issues involved with the trail system they as related to annexation of Sunshine Ranches and development of Imagination Farms. She stated that there were some plans but it was necessary to wait to see what happened with some of the roads.

Vice-Mayor Santini stated that the Town tried hard to disseminate information, usually through the Davie Update, and asked the residents for their suggestions on other ways to provide information. An unidentified man suggested that a web site, welcome to city signage and bulletin boards noticing of special meetings. A second unidentified man suggested mailing notices to the presidents of the different associations.

Representative Wasserman-Schultz stated that Ivanhoe was included in the legislative delegation's study being conducted to determine the different annexations, but they were not a part of the vote. She stated that each association president would receive a letter from herself and Senator Forman advising that the residents could have input as to which company conducted the study.

There being no objections or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.